Inside Region 3

An information product from the Accomplishment Reporting System

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Inventory of Caves at Big Oaks NWR Leads to Discovery of 3 Species New to Science

A biological inventory of caves on Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge in southern Indiana has yielded three species new to science. Julian J. Lewis, Ph.D., a cave biologist working under contract for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service discovered the three invertebrate species during an extensive 12-month inventory of invertebrates and vertebrates in 31 caves on the refuge.

Twelve wells were also sampled for subterranean aquatic organisms. The final report of the contractor's results will be available in May 2002 including future study and management recommendations and further information on the undescribed invertebrate species.

Big Oaks NWR is a 50,000 acre refuge located on the former Jefferson Proving Grounds. The Service manages habitat for 120 species of breeding birds, the federally-endangered Indiana bat and 41 species of fish. The refuge's 6,000 acres of grasslands supports one of the largest known populations of Henslow's sparrow, a once common grassland bird whose population has plummeted by more than 90 percent during the past 30 years. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has also identified 46 rare species of plants on the refuge. *Stephen Miller, Big Oaks NWR*

--Photo by Scott Flaherty

Great Color on the Big River

The riverboat "Jonathan Paddlford" travels south along a colorful stretch of the Mississippi River just north of the Service's "Great Lakes-Big Rivers" Regional Office at Fort Snelling, Minn. The Ojibway Indians of northern Minnesota called the river "Messipi" or "Big River."

Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership

Whooping Cranes Depart Necedah NWR on Historic Migration to Florida

A small flock of eight young whooping cranes led by three ultralight aircraft lifted off from Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin near dawn Oct. 17, 2001, today in an effort to restore migrating whooping cranes to eastern North America. The cranes will be taught a new 1,200 mile migration route to wintering grounds at Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge in Florida.

The reintroduction is part of an ongoing recovery effort for the highly imperiled species, which was on the verge of extinction in the 1940s and even today numbers only about 260 birds in the wild.

In 1998, a coalition of state and federal governments and the private sector formed the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership to coordinate and fund last year's sandhill crane study and this year's whooping crane study. Over 35 private landowners have volunteered their property as stopover sites for the cranes and migration team. A temporary pen keeps the cranes safe from predators between each morning's flight. The migration is expected to take from five to seven weeks. *(Joan Guilfoyle, External Affairs)*

First Tract of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie Refuge Dedicated

The first fee title tract of land to become part of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge was dedicated September 22, near Luverne, Minn. Approximately 80 people attended the dedication which was organized by the Brandenburg Foundation.

The ceremony also celebrated the removal of cattle from the site, and included folk music, a bonfire and a Native American ceremony. Jim Brandenburg announced the name of the tract, located about seven miles northwest of Luverne, as "Touch The Sky Prairie," part of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. The renowned photographer also created a poster for the refuge, donating several to the Windom Wetland Management District.

Steve Kallin of the Windom Wetland Management District spoke about the National Wildlife Refuge System and future goals for the prairie refuge. Kallin stressed the importance of partnerships with the local community and Brandenburg Foundation.

--Photo by Jim Brandenburg

Renowned nature photographer Jim Brandenburg created this poster commemorating the "Touch The Sky Prairie," part of the Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR.

Native Americans Clark Zephier and Danny Sea Boy, a Dakota Sioux medicine man, led a ceremony to bless the land, inviting many of the assembled visitors to participate.

It was an outstanding evening. The weather was perfect, sunset spectacular, and all who attended were delighted about the project. *Todd Hauge, Windom Wetland Management District*

Fall Surveys of Lake Superior Ruffe Populations Completed

Ashland Fishery Resources Office (FRO) completed its fall 2001 survey of Ruffe populations on four Lake Superior estuaries October 9. The estuaries of four Lake Superior tributaries—Amnicon, Iron, and Flag Rivers in Wisconsin, and the Ontonagon River in Michigan—were sampled with seines and trawls once each during spring, summer, and fall.

Compared to the 2000 fall survey, ruffe catch rates are up 19 percent in the Amnicon River, up 96 percent in the Iron River, down 96 percent in the Flag River, and up 91 percent in the Ontonagon River.

Generally, fall ruffe catches are representative of the overwintering population, but timing of the fall survey is very important. As the water cools, ruffe collect in the bottom of natural and dredged channels near the mouth of the tributaries. When the temperature declines (somewhere between 8-12C), ruffe migrate out of the tributary into Lake Superior.

This fall movement also occurs in the Lake Huron population near Alpena, Mich. Based on the abundance of the spring and summer surveys, it is likely that ruffe in the Flag River had already migrated into Lake Superior prior to the start of the fall survey. Ruffe populations in the three Wisconsin tributaries fluctuate seasonally and yearly, which is common with populations at or near carrying capacity. The Ontonagon River population has not reached carrying capacity and is still increasing. With the completion of the fall surveys, the mean densities for each species collected can be computed for 2001.

The Ruffe Population Investigations Study began in 1995 as a long term study to monitor the relative abundance of the nuisance fish, and native fishes. The objective is to observe any changes in these fish communities in the presence of Eurasian ruffe. Catch rates for each species are computed for each seasonal survey in each tributary and then converted to densities.

Due to seasonal variation, the three seasonal densities for each species are averaged to determine a mean density by species for the given tributary. The mean densities are then graphed over time to identify trends. *Gary Czypinski, Ashland Fishery Resources Office*

Bay Mills Indian Community Pipe Carrier Blesses Whooping Cranes

In a historic and solemn ceremony at Necedah NWR, Dwight "Bucko" Teeple, Pipe Carrier for the Bay Mills Indian Community in Michigan, stood on the shores of the wetland harboring the experimental flock of eight endangered whooping cranes at the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin. Using the traditional ceremonial pipe and burning of sacred tobacco the cranes were spiritually blessed for their migration flight scheduled for early October.

The private ceremony was uninterrupted except for the crane calls from across the lake and occasional sounds of waterfowl flying overhead. As the smoke rose it seemed to cut a path in the fog and mist which hung over the water. As the ceremony ended, a beam of sunshine broke through the early morning mist and caressed the cranes and their wetland habitat. Prayers support activities and a safe journey in the weeks ahead as the cranes prepare to be led by ultra-light aircraft from their home and training site in Wisconsin to their winter home at the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge in Florida.

Dwight "Bucko" Teeple prepares his pipe for the blessing of the cranes.

This ceremony marked the initial participation of the Native American community in the partnership effort to restore endangered whooping crane. Many tribes have crane clans and crane clan members are known for their leadership and called the echo-makers. Crane clan representatives are respected for their oratory skills and ability to speak for other members of the tribe.

Active Tribal participation in the crane restoration effort provides a spiritual and traditional value which has not existed before and exhibits the best in cooperative partnership adding a new dimension to the Native American Partnership related to crane recovery activities. It is the first in several opportunities to incorporate tribal values into the crane recovery activities. *John Leonard, External Affairs*

Service Joins Partners to Purchase and Restore 400-Acre Waterfowl Production Area

Service to Manage 596-Acre Site as Centennial WPA

The Service is joining with other partners to purchase a new 596-acre waterfowl production area in Big Stone County, Minnesota. The key feature is a 400 acre drained marsh that will be restored. The area, to be called the Centennial Waterfowl Production Area, will be restored in time for the refuge system's centennial in March, 2003.

Key partners include U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Big Stone County Highway Department, Ducks Unlimited, and the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District. The Department of Agriculture is acquiring a 30-year Wetland Reserve Program easement on the property. The Fish and Wildlife Service is purchasing the remaining property interest and will own the land to be managed as a waterfowl production area. The partners are sharing Land acquisition costs and habitat restoration costs. USDA is paying 75 percent of acquisition and restoration costs. The Service is paying 25 percent of the acquisition costs. The Service and its partners are paying 25 percent of the habitat restoration costs. *Steve Delehanty, Morris WMD*

Minnesota Valley NWR Volunteers Clean Up 280 Acre Tract in Chaska Unit

Volunteers joined refuge staff Sept. 29 to clean up 280 acres recently acquired for the Chaska Unit of Minnesota Valley NWR. In celebration of National Public Lands Day, more than 25 volunteers spent the day removing trash from the unit.

In addition to 30 bags of trash, some notable items found included a snowmobile engine, a stolen ATV, a trailer, five tires, a washing machine and a dryer. The volunteers also found two camps, one of which included a small shack. The camps will be cleaned up later by refuge staff.

With the acquisition of this property, the 600 acre Chaska Unit is nearly complete. The Refuge will now be able to manage water levels on the 68-acre Chaska Lake. The Refuge also plans to restore floodplain forest on several former agricultural fields. *Tom Kerr, Minnesota Valley NWR*

Service Works With Indiana Development Task Force to Develop Habitat Conservation Plan For Indiana Bats

HCP Will Minimize Impact of Interstate/Airport Road Construction on Endangered Bats

An Indiana task force seeking to develop a series of road improvements in and around the Indianapolis Airport is consulting with the Service to develop a habitat conservation plan (HCP) to minimize the incidental take of federally endangered Indiana bats during road construction. The HCP was developed in consultation with the Service's Bloomington Field Office and was created in conjunction with an incidental take permit application submitted by the task force.

The interagency task force is composed of the Indianapolis Airport Authority, the Indianapolis Department of Public Works, Indianapolis Department of Metropolitan Development, Federal Highway Administration, Indiana Department of Transportation and the Hendricks County Board of County Commissioners. It proposes to construct a new interchange on Interstate 70 (I-70) and associated highway improvements in the vicinity of Six Points Road in Hendricks and Marion Counties, Indiana.

Additional development will occur in the area in association with the road construction, including expansion and improvements at the Indianapolis International Airport and commercial and industrial development within the privately owned AmeriPlex area south of I-70. It has been determined that the proposed actions will result in incidental take of the Indiana bat. The Task Force has submitted an application for an incidental take permit under Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act.

In conjunction with its application for an incidental take permit, the Task Force developed an HCP to ensure that any incidental taking that might occur will be minimized and mitigated to the maximum extent practicable, and will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of this species in the wild.

The Task Force designed the HCP in consultation with the Service to ensure that the project area and adjoining areas used by Indiana bats will continue to support suitable habitat for the species, while allowing for incidental take of Indiana bats that may occur as the result of the proposed activities.

Measures in the HCP designed to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the impacts of the proposed action on Indiana bats include:

1) Seasonal Tree Cutting Restrictions - No trees will be cleared between April 15 and September 15, the dates during which Indiana bats may occupy maternity roosts in the project area;

2) Permanent Protection of a 151 ha of Existing Indiana Bat Habitat - 71 ha of existing bat habitat that is owned by the Indianapolis Airport Authority within the HCP Boundary and 80 ha of existing bat habitat outside the HCP boundary will be protected in perpetuity;

3) Mitigation Plantings - 140 ha of hardwood seedlings will be planted and protected in perpetuity;

4) Monitoring and Research Program - The response of the Indiana bat population to the proposed construction and mitigation activities will be monitored for 15 years and mitigation plantings will be monitored for 5 years;

5) Public Outreach/Educational Program - The applicants will work with the Service to develop and implement an outreach program to educate the public regarding the Indiana bat. *Lori Pruitt, Bloomington Field Office*

Missouri Study Yields Valuable Information on the Indiana Bat

A Service-funded study of a bat detection device and mist net survey techniques is providing important information on how bat detection systems can detect endangered Indiana bats and promote their recovery.

The Service's Columbia Field Office funded the study conducted by Dr. Lynn Robbins of Southwest Missouri State University. Dr. Robbins compared the performance of ANABAT, a bat detection device, against mist net survey techniques at sites in northern Missouri.

During the study, Dr. Robbins discovered the largest concentration of Indiana bats on their breeding grounds in North America. Three maternity colonies were located, with a minimum of 450 bats in one area.

Dr. Robbins also assisted with ANABAT surveys for the Holman Concrete Project in St. Genevieve County, Mo., where he discovered Missouri's first Indiana bat maternity colony south of the Missouri River. *Charles Scott, Columbia Field Office*

Windom WMD Conducts First Prescribed Burns on 169 Acres

The Windom Wetland Management District (WMD) conducted its first fall burns since being established in 1990. Four fall burns totaling 169.6 acres were completed in September on Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA) in Jackson County.

The prescribed fires on the Boot Lake and Skunk Lake WPAs were intended to stress the cool season brome grass and to provide a clean field for a more effective herbicide treatment of the brome prior to seeding. The Timber Lake burn reduced the invasion of woody vegetation into the seeded native prairie and wetland basin. However, the burn was extinguished due to the high fuel moisture and lack of wind needed to accomplish our intended goal. *Todd Hauge, Windom WMD*

Innovative Web Site Will Streamline Consultations in Missouri

The Missouri Ecological Services Field Office and the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) are jointly developing a web site to provide information on fish and wildlife resources that will streamline and revolutionize pre-development consultation in Missouri.

The primary source of information will come from Missouri's Heritage database. No site-specific species/community identification information will be listed on the site. General location/identification will only be provided when a known "hit" occurs and the inquirer contacts MDC or the Service. Other useful information on the web site may include agencies' mission and responsibilities statements, National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps or a link to the NWI web site, resource guide sheets, best management practices, list of contacts at state and federal level, spawning restriction information, links to other public lands, statements included on Heritage reports, and Service statements for habitat requirements, blank clearance letters for projects involving minor impacts to resources and other web sites within the MDC, FWS, and other resource agencies.

The ability to provide this level of early planning web-based information to all users will substantially reduce staff time for routine screenings thus providing more time to work on significant conservation actions.

This innovative website will be valuable to developers, the public, resource managers and educators. The new website is expected to be operation in late 2002. *Charles Scott, Columbia Field Office*

A young girl displays her creative "blue goose" mobile.

--Photo by Jim Hudgins

Refuge Centennial Message Delivered in Michigan

"Flying" blue geese helped deliver the message of the National Wildlife Refuge System's Centennial to more than 450 visitors recently at the Potter Park Zoo's Conservation Day in Lansing, Mich. Children of all ages decorated cut-outs of the National Wildlife Refuge System's "blue goose" as they learned more about the upcoming centennial and the conservation efforts of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Staff of Service's Michigan Private Lands Office and East Lansing Field Office participated with representatives from 10 other organizations in the day-long conservation event. The blue goose mobiles were developed by staff of the Michigan Private Lands Office, who hope to make them available throughout Region 3 later this year. *Jim Hudgins, Michigan Private Lands Office*

Service Coordination With Army Corps of Engineers Navigation Study Enters New Era

The Service has taken a holistic approach to navigation planning with the Army Corps of Engineers in the Upper Mississippi River ecosystem, stating throughout the planning process that the ecosystem requires consideration for maintenance and restoration equal to that of the navigation system. An independent review by members of the National Research Council validated many of the Service's concerns.

As a result of this and related events, the Corps' is re-scoping this major river navigation study. The new study, initiated in August 2001, will "seek to improve the effectiveness of the navigation system in a manner that achieves environmental sustainability for the navigation system and the resource that it directly impacts. Further, the study will be comprehensive and holistic as it considers the multiple purpose uses of this system."

The Rock Island Field Office has worked with the Army Corps of Engineers on proposed improvements to the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers navigation system since 1992. *Rick Nelson, Rock Island Field Office*

Service Restorations Help Complete "Living Laboratory"

Hamden Slough Refuge Helps Return Former Cropland to Prairie, Wetlands

In September 2001, the Lake Park/ Audubon Elementary School Wetland Education Demonstration Site was completed on 60 acres of former cropland adjacent to the school in Audubon, Minn. The area was restored to a 13 acre wetland, 13 acres of native prairie with wildflowers, oak savanna shelter belts, wildlife shrub and tree plantings, and blue bird boxes.

Many local, state, and federal agencies, conservation clubs, local individuals, as well as students were partners in planning, funding, and restoration of the site. Partners invested $15,600 in labor, materials, and funds. The school students designed a water control structure. The students will use a Water Management Plan designed by Hamden Slough NWR, and use their own math and biological observations for water manipulation.

Stoplogs for the water control structure were delivered to the school by refuge personnel in September, and are painted in the school colors: red, black, and gray, and are emblazoned with the school logo - a pirate. Refuge personnel assisted with the design of the restoration and the "sweat equity" of obtaining permits, an engineering design, and community consensus for a water control structure on a State Protected Wetland inside of city limits.

Numerous discussions were held with State personnel, city council members, teachers, and school board members who were worried about many facets of wetland restorations in an urban area. Refuge personnel also provided the seed and equipment for the 13-acre native prairie restoration. *Michael Murphy, Hamden Slough NWR*

Fall Sampling of Upper Mississippi River Refuge Pools Show Decline in Invertabrates, Increases in Aquatic Plants

Each fall, biologists at the Upper Mississippi River NW&FR take to the river to sample invertebrates. This year, refuge staff sampled Pools 5, 5a, 7, 8, 9 and 13 and Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge. Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa Departments of Natural Resources conducted other pool samplings.

Using a Ponar dredge sampler, the muck is washed away with the river water to reveal the invertebrates. Focus critters were fingernail clams, mayflies and midges. Species of concern are always the exotics such as the zebra mussels.

Substrate samples have shown a decline in aquatic invertebrates between the mid- 1990s and 200. The exception has been zebra mussels which have been on the increase until this year.

The general decline in critters has been countered by increases in acres of aquatic plants (wild celery, sago pondweed and arrowhead.) The tubers from these plants provide food for migrating waterfowl. This switch from animal to vegetable food sources probably benefits waterfowl in terms of 'carbo-loading' for their migration. The shift has been most pronounced in Pools 7, 8, 9 and 13 of the refuge.

"We have found that substrates supporting hearty aquatic plant growth generally do not support high numbers of substrate-dwelling invertebrates, such as fingernail clams, burrowing mayflies, midges and aquatic worms," said Refuge Biologist Eric Nelson. " Those same aquatic plants do, however, harbor many other invertebrates within the water column which are important foods for breeding waterfowl and most fish species on the Upper Mississippi River.

--Photo by Cindy Samples

Eric Nelson, biologist at the Upper Mississippi River National Willdlife and Fish Refuge, examines a sample for the presence of invertabrates.

Refuge biologists have been doing sampling since the early 1990s to help acquire trend data. The data helps answer questions that arise when determining habitat projects and success of projects such as the Evironmental Management Program projects. *Cindy Samples, Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge*

Lake Erie watersnakes. --Photo by Andrew Seymour

Telemetry Study to Locate Hibernating Lake Erie Watersnakes

The Service and Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife are joining to fund a three-year, $150,000 telemetry study to locate and examine unknown hibernation sites of the federally-threatened Lake Erie water snake on islands in the western basin of Lake Erie.

The Lake Erie water snake (LEWS), was designated a threatened species in September 1999. The non-poisonous snake is found only on the Ohio and Canadian islands in the western basin of Lake Erie and is threatened by development of its summer and hibernation habitats. Though harmless, the snakes can become quite large and may seem intimidating.

The four islands targeted in the study, Kelleys, North Bass, Middle Bass, and South Bass (also referred to as Put-In-Bay), house the majority of the snake's U.S. population. Both Kelleys and South Bass are major summer vacation spots for a large number of tourists. Portions of Middle Bass Island were recently purchased by the state, which plans to create a new state park there. The large number of tourists visiting the islands poses a potential threat to the snakes, which are known to frequent docks, boats, and swimming areas. A private landowner on Kelleys Island plans to construct several homes on one of the few undeveloped parcels of land on the island. This area has been identified as a hibernation site for the snake. Service biologists are working with the landowner to create a plan that will both allow development and provide an overall benefit to the snake.

--Photo by Andrew Seymour

Megan Sullivan (standing left) of the Reynoldsburg Field Office staffed an Lake Erie watersnake information booth during Historic Weekend on South Bass Island, Ohio, September 8. Kristin Stanford (seated) graduate student at Northern Illinois University and primary researcher for the telemetry study, also provided information about the snakes and helped answer questions from the public during the weekend.

Results of the LEWS telemetry study will help the Service protect the snake from impacts due to development. The study will provide information needed to recommend a time-frame in which construction can occur without impacting the snake. We can also use this information to provide further protection for hibernation sites. Outreach activities benefit the snake by making island visitors aware that the snake is a protected species, by keeping residents updated on the telemetry study and Service activities on the islands, and by maintaining a friendly presence on the islands.

Partners in the telemetry study and outreach efforts include the Ohio Department of Natural Resources-Division of Wildlife, Northern Illinois University, Ohio State University-Stone Laboratory, Lake Erie Islands Historical Society, and many members of the island communities that post snake signs and allow access to their property to track the snakes.

Megan Sullivan, Reynoldsburg Field Of

Service Joins Great Lakes Partners to Collect Coaster Brook Trout Eggs From Isle Royal National Park

Isle Royale National Park in Lake Superior, supports the only known populations of wild self-sustaining coaster brook trout in U.S. waters of the Great Lakes. Service fishery biologists, with field assistance from Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Isle Royale National Park, and the University of Minnesota, recently travelled to the waters off Isle Royale as part of its continuing development of the Tobin Harbor strain coaster brook trout brood stock .

Crews departed for Isle Royale in early October and returned to the mainland October 21. About 65 individual brook trout were captured in Tobin Harbor using fyke nets and boat electrofishing.

Eggs and milt were collected from a dozen pairs of coaster brook trout. The size of females from which eggs were collected ranged from 16.9 to 19.7 inches. Fertilized eggs were transported from Isle Royale to the isolation facility at Genoa NFH. The collection provided a third year class of wild gametes and will assist Service efforts to develop a coaster brook trout brood stock for restoration efforts in Lake Superior. Rearing and development of the brood stock takes place at Iron River and Genoa National Fish Hatcheries.

--USFWS Photo

Fishery Biologist Henry Quinlan of the Ashland Fishery Resources Office displays a colorful "coaster" brook trout pulled from the waters off Isle Royale National Park in Lake Superior.

Secondary objectives of the collection effort were to gather data on population , age, size and structure, capture location, substrate type at capture sites, and tissue samples for genetic evaluation of the wild and hatchery reared fish.

Henry Quinlan, Ashland Fishery Resources Office

Accomplishment Reports Received

This issue of Inside Region 3 is the first of Fiscal Year 2002. More than 300 reports were filed in September. Approximately 1,370 accomplishment reports were filed during Fiscal Year 2001.

The exhaustive list of September reports will not be published in Inside Region 3. However, employees can search the ARS database for all reports by logging in to the ARS website (http://ars.fws.gov) and using the Report Manager Utility.

The following listing shows reports process by the ARS between Oct. 1 and Oct. 23, 2001.

1. **New Website for the Morris Wetland Management District**
Wayne Henderson, Morris WMD

2. **Minnesota Valley NWR Plans to Celebrate its 25 Year Anniversary**
Scott Ford, Minnesota Valley NWR

3. **Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee**
Rick Nelson, Rock Island FO

4. **FWS Coordination With Corps' Navigation Study Enters New Era**
Rick Nelson, Rock Island FO

5. **Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Cements Partnership With Illinois Ducks Unlimited**
Rick Nelson, Rock Island FO

6. **Chicago Wilderness Native Landscaping Initiative Encourages Native Grasses**
Karla Kramer, Chicago FO

7. **Illinois Steering Committee List Potential Restoration Projects**
Karla Kramer, Chicago FO

8. **Final Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report - Pool 11, Mississippi River**
Rick Nelson, Rock Island FO

9. **Blue Goose**
Jim Hudgins, Michigan PLO

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10. **Alpena FRO Educates Children About Sea Lamprey at Alpena Public Library**
Anjanette Hintz, Alpena FRO

11. **Youth Deer Hunt at Union Slough NWR**
Rod Hansen, Union Slough NWR

12. **Mark Twain NWR Complex Begins Second Year of Involvement With the St. Louis EnvironMentors Project.**
Michael Dixon, Mark Twain NWR-Riverlands

13. **King/Coda Wetland Restoration Completed**
Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO

14. **Fall Survey Completed in Ruffe Population Investigations**
Gary Czypinski, Ashland FRO

15. **Morris 10th Graders Roll Mallard Nesting Cylinders**
Darrell Haugen, Morris WMD

16. **Bat Study in Missouri Yields Valuable Information on the Indiana Bat**
Charles Scott, Columbia FO

17. **Survey Protocols will Help Protect Mussel Resources in Missouri/ Arkansas**
Charles Scott, Columbia FO

18. **Innovative Web Site for Early Planning Assistance for Fish and Wildlife in Missouri**
Charles Scott, Columbia FO

19. **Career Day at Upper Mississippi River NWR**
Cynthia Samples, UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ

20. **Chicago Office Coordinates Workday for Threatened Orchid**
Michael Redmer, Chicago FO

21. **200 Brave Rain to Attend Eight Annual Wildlife Festival at Sherburne NWR**
Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR

22. **Two Rivers Refuge Celebrates National Wildlife Refuge Week**
Russell Engelke, Two Rivers NWR

23. **Invasion of Eighth Graders at Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge**
Lisa McCurdy, Trempealeau NWR

24. **178 Important Shorebird Stopover Sites Identified**
Bob Russell, Migratory Birds & State Pgm

25. **Ruffe Control Committee Examines its Strengths, Weaknesses, and Opportunities**
Gary Czypinski, Ashland FRO

26. **East Lansing Field Office Hosts Retirement Planning Seminar**
Janet Brewer, East Lansing FO

27. **UW Environmental Ecology Graduate Students Visit Leopold WMD**
Sheldon Myerchin, Leopold WMD

28. **Ashland FRO Assist Iron River NFH**
Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

29. **Case of the Missing Trunk a Blueprint for Kindness**
Judith Miller, Minnesota Valley NWR

30. **Bats of the Americas Help Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week**
Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR

31. **Alpena Fishery Resources Office Provides Job Shadowing Experience**
Anjanette Hintz, Alpena FRO

32. **Ecologists Find Federally Endangered Plant in Southern Indiana**
Lori Pruitt, Bloomington FO

33. **Refuge Fee Demonstration Program Pays Tribute to NWRS Centennial**
Judy Pharris, Crab Orchard NWR

34. **Green Bay FRO Conducts Lake Trout Spawner Surveys on Lake Michigan**
Charles Bronte, Green Bay FRO

Inside Region 3

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Federal Court Indicts Five in Missouri For Illegal Trafficking of Protected Big Cats

A federal court in Missouri unsealed indictments Thursday November 8, 2001, charging five people in connection with the illegal trafficking of six endangered tigers and five leopards protected by federal law. The indictments were filed in November 2000 and January 2001 by the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri in St. Louis following a lengthy undercover investigation by agents of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Conspiracy and Lacey Act charges were filed against Todd and Vicki Lantz, of Cape Girardeau, Mo., Freddy Wilmoth of Gentry, Ark., Stoney Elam of Fort Gibson, Okla., and Tim Rivers of Citra, Fla.. The five are alleged to have illegally purchased, transported and sold federally-endangered tigers and leopards between January and August 1998.

The indictments allege that in February 1998, Todd Lantz, owner of Lazy L Exotics, in Cape Girardeau, purchased four tigers from Freddy Wilmoth in Gentry, Ark., and transported them to the 5H Ranch in Cape Girardeau, Mo., with the knowledge the tigers were to be killed. After the tigers were killed and sold, Vicky Lantz prepared federal forms (USDA Form 720) falsely stating the transaction was a donation.

Indictments also allege that in June 1998, Stoney Elam sold two tigers and three leopards in violation of federal wildlife laws. Similarly, Timothy Rivers, owner of Animals in Motion in Citra, Fla., is alleged to have illegally sold two leopards in August 1998.

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--Photo by Scott Flaherty

Don't Look...You Won't Feel a Thing

Veterinarian Dr. Tim Yoder shields the eye of a young bison while Refuge Biologist Pauline Drobney inserts a subcutaneous identification tag behind its left ear. The process was part of the annual bison roundup Oct. 29 at Neal Smith NWR. For more on the roundup, see the report on page 2.

Wisconsin DNR to Receive $795,000 Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant

The Wisconsin DNR has been selected to receive a $795,000 grant award through the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. The funds will be used to assist with the permanent protection of 240 acres of coastal wetlands, including 800 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline, on Washington Island in Door County. The federal funds will be matched with state funding, and with donations from the Door County Land Trust.

There were 32 proposals submitted for this nationaly competitive program, requesting nearly $23 million. Only 20 projects were selected in just 10 coastal states, for $14.5 million in funds available for Fiscal Year 2002.

The Washington Island Wetlands Project includes two state natural areas, Coffee Swamp and Big and Little Marsh. The project is also near the Jackson Harbor Ridges State Natural Area, Rock Island State Park and Hog Island National Wildlife Refuge. The area includes many unique natural features and rare species such as the threatened dwarf lake iris and the endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly.

The Upper Door Peninsula has long been recognized as a protection priority by public agencies and private conservation organizations. A mosaic of permanent protection has been created through the efforts of the Service, Wis

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Bison Roundup Helps Neal Smith NWR Manage Tallgrass Prairie

Sixty-four bison were captured during the annual bison roundup Oct. 29 at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge in central Iowa. Each bison was checked for general health condition, eye injuries and diseases common to bovine species. Blood and hair samples were taken to monitor genetic diversity within the herd.

To protect the health of the prairie within the current bison enclosure, the refuge herd will be maintained at about 35 bison. Three experienced cowboys from the National Bison Range in Montana added their expertise to the roundup, gathering the herd from across the refuge's 700-acre enclosure. Once corralled, the bison were sorted for identification and DNA testing.

Thirty-six bison were donated to local county conservation boards or Native American tribes. The conservation boards use the animals in educational programs. Native Americans start new herds or increase genetic diversity of existing herds. Four bison were given to the Buchanon, Black Hawk and Jasper County Conservation Boards of Iowa.

--Photo by Scott Flaherty

These two bison were among 64 bison corralled during the annual bison roundup at Neal Smith NWR Oct. 29.

Sixteen bison were provided to the Red Lake Band of Chippewa in northern Minnesota, and 16 went to the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. The bison were also made available for purchase by open bid, however, no bids were received.

TheNeal Smith NWR bison roundup will be held annually to maintain the smaller herd size. *Christy Smith, Neal Smith NWR*

Continued from previous page

Wisconsin Awarded Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant

consin DNR, University of Wisconsin, U.S. Coast Guard, The Nature Conservancy, The Ridges Sanctuary, Door County Land Trust, and the Door County Parks Department.

The National Wetlands Conservation Grant Program was created by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act of 1991. Funding is provided through the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Account. The Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program provides grants to states, including Great Lakes' states, for long range conservation through acquisition, restoration, enhancement or management of coastal wetlands. *Dave Pederson, Federal Aid*

Continued from previous page

Five Indicted For Illegal Trafficking of Big Cats

If convicted each defendant faces maximum penalties of five years in prison and/or fines of up to $250,000.

Service investigators, working closely with the U.S. Attorney's Offices in Missouri, Illinois and Michigan, uncovered a group of residents and small business owners in the Midwest that allegedly bought and killed exotic tigers, leopards, snow leopards, lions, mountain lions, cougars, mixed breed cats and black bears with the intention of introducing meat and skins into the lucrative animal parts trade. Tigers and snow leopards are listed as "Endangered" under the federal Endangered Species Act. The law also protects leopards, which are classified as either "endangered" or "threatened" depending on the location of the wild population. Although federal regulations allow possession of captive-bred tigers, the regulations stipulate activities involving their use must be to enhance the propagation or survival of the species. It is unlawful to kill the animals for profit, or to sell their hides, parts or meats into interstate commerce.

Service agents were also assisted in the Missouri investigation by law enforcement officers from the Missouri Department of Conservation.

The five charged in Missouri are the second phase of indictments to be brought in the ongoing investigation. In January, Woody Thompson Jr. of Three Rivers, Mich., pleaded guilty to brokering the interstate sale of three tiger skins. Thompson, owner of the Willow Lake Sportsmans Club in Three Rivers, was sentenced to serve six months home detention and two years probation; fined $2,000 and ordered to pay $28,000 to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's "Save the Tigers Fund." (*Tim Santel, Springfield Law Enforcement Office)*

Volunteer Sturgeon Monitoring Program by Commercial Fishermen in Lake Superior

The Ashland Fishery Resources Office (FRO) has initiated a volunteer sturgeon monitoring program for commercial fishermen fishing near the Keweenaw Peninsula in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan on Lake Superior. Three tribal fishermen have volunteered to tag and collect data from sturgeon caught in their gill nets or trap nets.

Two of the fishermen, Joe Newago, Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and Neil Malmgren, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC), are using gill nets and the Dakota brothers, Dale and Brad, of the KBIC, are fishing with trap nets.

Each volunteer is given a "sturgeon kit," a tackle box containing a cloth tape measure, scissors, tag gun and yellow Service-numbered floy tags, camera, a mini-hack saw, pencils and scale envelopes developed to record data. When a sturgeon is caught, total length and girth measurements are taken, weight is recorded if possible, then the sturgeon is tagged at the base of the dorsal fin. A small piece of the pectoral fin is clipped and saved for genetic analysis.

The fish is also photographed, then released. If the sturgeon is dead, the mini-hack saw is used to remove the pectoral fin to be used for aging the specimen, along with all the data being recorded as well.

Along with the volunteers, the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Natural Resources Department is currently conducting their annual lake trout assessments on Lake Superior, and a kit was supplied to the tribe. Data collected from the tribe and volunteers will be entered into a Lake Sturgeon Great Lakes Database that is currently being developed. *Glenn Miller, Ashland Fishery Resources Office*

A young visitor examines a photo while visiting the bluebird viewing station.

Migratory Birds Highlight Refuge Week Event at Trempealeau NWR

Staffs from Trempealeau and Upper Mississippi River refuges hosted a Refuge Week celebration at Trempealeau NWR Oct. 10. Visitors received a photo passport which was stamped as they visited various activity tables in the refuge.

Visitors learned how to spot birds using binoculars and field guides. They also played a migration game to learn about the hazards birds face along their journeys and an animal guessing game that taught them about other animals that migrate. After collecting all of the required passport stamps, travelers claimed a free pumpkin.

Van tours, nature crafts, an exhibit of the Bob Pohl Chapter of the Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges photo contest winners, and an evening star gazing program were also available for visitors to enjoy.

More than 100 visitors participated in the events. *Lisa McCurdy, Trempealeau NWR*

Last Dam Removed From Baraboo River

The Linen Mill Dam, last of four dams on the Baraboo River, a major tributary to the Wisconsin River in south central Wisconsin was removed Oct. 10. The full 125 mile reach of the Baraboo is now open to the Wisconsin River. Fish passage will now be enhanced for many species including lake sturgeon which have been excluded from much of its traditional spawning habitat in the Baraboo for 150 years. The River Alliance states that the Baraboo is now the longest free flowing river restoration in the country.

Linen Mill Dam was originally constructed in the 1800s to provide power for milling linen. It has served many purposes over the years, and as recently as this year was producing modest amounts of electrical power. The removal of the four dams began in 1998, with the removal of a dam in Baraboo and included the removal of the LaValle Dam in February of 2001.

Ecologists Find Federally Endangered Plant in Southern Indiana

Short's goldenrod (*Solidago shortii*) was listed as a federally endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) in 1995. Dr. Charles Short of Louisville scientifically described the species in 1842. He found it in 1840 growing on a limestone outcrop in Kentucky known as Rock Island, located within a stretch of the Ohio River known as the Falls of the Ohio, between Clarksville, Ind., and Louisville, Ky. This population was lost to alterations caused by construction of locks and dams in the early 1900s. At the time of listing, the species distribution was restricted to one localized area in northeastern Kentucky.

Ecologists with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Nature Preserves, in a cooperative project with The Nature Conservancy, have been conducting botanical and natural area inventory in Harrison, Crawford and Washington Counties in Indiana. During survey efforts in August 2001, ecologists working on this project were excited to discover a population of Short's goldenrod, only the second known site for this species.

--Photo courtesy Indiana DNR

*Short's goldenrod (*Solidago shortii*).*

Short's goldenrod grows in cedar glades and openings in oak and hickory forests. Some type of natural disturbance seems to be important; locations in Kentucky known to harbor this species are associated with a buffalo trace and it has been suggested that bison-caused disturbances were perhaps important in the past. The plants in Indiana were found in a natural community referred to as a "gravel wash." *Lori Pruitt, Bloomington Field Office*

New Book Features Dragonfly Species of Muscatatuck NWR

Photos of Muscatatuck NWR and its dragonfly species' are featured in a new book, "The Dragonflies of Indiana," by Dr. James Curry of Franklin College. This is a groundbreaking field guide to the fascinating insects and the 97 species of dragonflies that call Indiana home. Muscatatuck is home to 35 species as documented by Dr. Curry. The book also contains references to the refuge on 18 pages with 22 photos of refuge dragonflies.

Anyone who has walked along a stream or wetland has seen dragonflies dancing along nearby. In various colors with patterns of stripes or spots, they hover on shimmering wings or dive like tiny fighter jets. Dragonflies are fascinating insects, with some displaying brutal mating habits, larvae that can eat fish, and some species that migrate like birds. And, they are well suited to their fierce-sounding name. They certainly are voracious feeders. They are strict predators and take other insects on the wing. A big dragonfly can eat thousands of mosquitoes each day.

Dr. Curry began his work at Muscatatuck NWR in 1996, with a tour and review of his project's plans by Refuge Operations Specialist Susan Knowles. The refuge provided assistance and logistical support whenever needed. Many of his students helped during his fieldwork at Muscatatuck and throughout Indiana. Four of the species documented had never been recorded in Indiana before. One of which was first reported in Indiana at Muscatatuck NWR May 12, 1998, and is the earliest dragonfly to emerge in the spring in Indiana (Beaverpond Baskettail). The only known breeding population in Indiana is now documented on the refuge. *Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR*

178 Important Shorebird Sites Identified

Region 3 Shorebird Coordinator Bob Russell recently surveyed state and federal biologists throughout the Upper Mississippi River-Great Lakes shorebird planning region in the north-central United States, to identify important shorebird stopover locales. One hundred seventy eight sites were identified including 18 areas that were considered of regional importance (greater than 20,000 shorebirds annually) and 160 areas of local importance (4,000-20,000 annually).

Due to the ephemeral nature of shorebird habitat in the Midwest, some sites may be unavailable for shorebirds for several years in a row. This survey will assist the Service in directing shorebird conservation efforts and in prioritizing Joint-Venture projects. *Bob Russell, Migratory Birds & State Programs*

Service Heritage Committee Seeks Retired Members

Region 3's Heritage Committee is looking for names and addresses of retired field office employees. Field offices are asked to create a list of names and addresses of retired maintenance workers, biologists, planners, managers, rangers, etc., and forward the list Jonathan Schafler, Crab Orchard NWR (618-997-3344 ext 306) by Feb. 10, 2002. The names will be added to a database for retiree mailings, "Fish & Wildlife News" and other information.

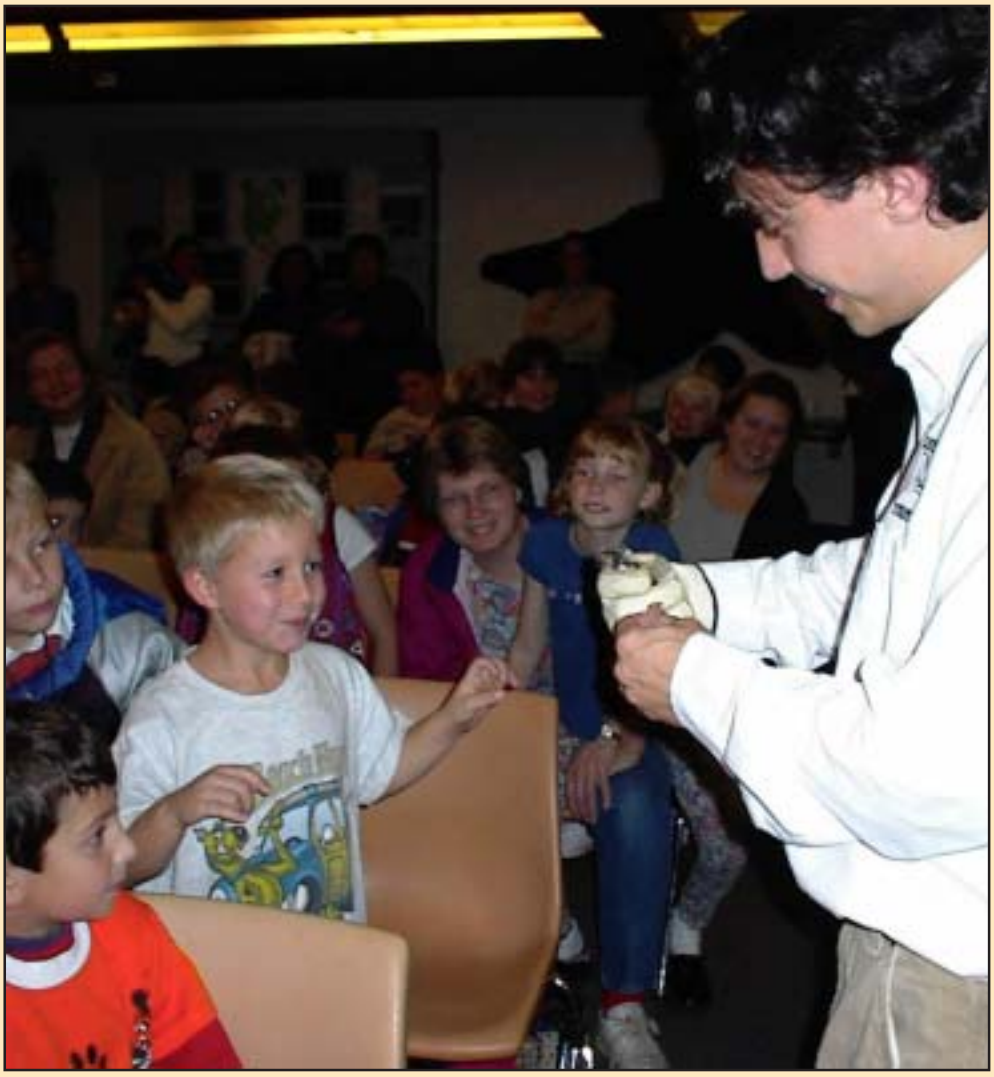
Ohio Man to Pay More Than $11,000 For Poisoning Migratory Birds

A Jackson, Ohio, man was ordered to pay restitution of $11,912.50 to the Ohio Division of Wildlife and sentenced to 100 hours of community service by a federal court in Columbus, Ohio, Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2001, for poisoning 486 federally-protected migratory birds at a farm in Jackson in November 1999. Harlan "Slim" Campbell, 68, was also sentenced to five years probation and ordered to pay an additional $10 assessment.

Between November 1999 and January 2000, investigators from the Ohio Division of Wildlife, working with agents of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, investigated a mass kill of birds on the Riegel Farm on Beaver Pike in Jackson. State wildlife investigators counted 486 dead birds that included 357 mourning doves, 85 Canada geese, 19 crows, three meadowlarks, six horned larks, four killdeer, five red winged blackbirds and seven grackles. The birds are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, a federal law that protects migratory birds and makes it unlawful to "take" birds without a federal permit.

In addition to the dead birds, State wildlife investigators also found approximately 100 pounds of poisoned corn on 50 bait sites on the farm. The corn had been mixed with Warbex, an agricultural insecticide used to kill lice and grubs on cattle.

The case was jointly prosecuted by Ohio Attorney General Betty Montgomery and U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio Greg Lockhart. *(Scott Flaherty, External Affairs.)*



Bats Help Shiawassee NWR Celebrate Refuge Week

Rob Mies, co-founder of the Organization for Bat Conservation (OBC), shows a young boy a bat from South America during a "Bats of the Americas" program at Shiawassee NWR's Greenpoint Environmental Learning Center Oct. 18, 2001. OBC has educated millions of people through live programs and appearances on television shows like "Martha Stewart Living" and "The Today Show." The program was sponsored by the Shiawassee NWR and the Friends of Shiawassee NWR in celebration of NWR Week.

Iowa Partners' Projects Restore Habitat for Federally Endangered Topeka Shiner

The Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Office in Iowa has completed its first habitat restoration projects to benefit the federally-endangered Topeka shiner. Two ox-bow restorations were recently completed in Calhoun County, Iowa, where known populations of this endangered species exist. Stream channelization and degradation have eliminated much of this type of habitat.

Scientists have found that the Topeka Shiner, once common throughout prairie streams in the Midwest, require permanent to semi-permanent slack water areas (i.e. ox-bows) for survival. The spring floods recharge these ox-bows to help provide habitat throughout the summer. By restoring stream flow to these ox-bows, the Topeka shiner has additional habitat to utilize.

The Iowa Private Lands Office has two other Topeka shiner restoration projects to complete in 2002. For additional information about this or any other restoration projects and opportunities in Iowa contact Jim Munson, Iowa Private Lands Coordinator at (515) 994-3400 *James Munson, Iowa Private Lands Office*

Lake Sturgeon Restocked Into Menominee Waters

The lake sturgeon has been a major focal point of Menominee Indian culture for many centuries. Historically, tribal members living in northeastern Wisconsin were nutritionally dependent upon an annual subsistence harvest of lake sturgeon each spring when large numbers of the fish swam upstream in certain Great Lakes tributaries to spawn.

Lake sturgeon remained a missing component of the native fish community in the region until 1995, when a long-term, multi-agency restoration and management plan was initiated. Each year , a dozen or more Wolf River lake sturgeon are captured at sites located downstream of the dams, tagged, and released in river reaches located upstream of the dams and within the Menominee Indian Reservation. Through 2001, a total of 110 feral lake sturgeon had been relocated in this manner to help achieve the long-term goal of re-establishing a self-sustaining population here.

Wolf River lake sturgeon relocation efforts in 2001 took place at the end of October. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff electrofished and captured 21 lake sturgeon. These included several large fish that ranged up to 72 inches in total length and nearly 95 pounds in weight. The fish were initially transported about 20 miles upstream in a DNR fish distribution truck to a tributary stream on the reservation.

--Photo by Scott Yess

Service Fishery Biologist Mark Steingraeber and Jeremy Pyatskowit attach an external radio transmitter to a lake sturgeon during stocking activities on the Menominee Indian Reservation.

Tribal, and Service biologists tag each fish with three unique markers. As in past years, a numbered aluminum strap tag was externally attached to musculature at the base of the dorsal fin. This tag is easily recognizable and encourages angler participation in lake sturgeon management by reporting the status and location of individual fish. Next, a passive integrated transponder tag is implanted behind the head in musculature beneath a dorsal scute with a syringe. This internal tag should remain with the fish throughout its life and can be detected electronically by state and federal biologists to quickly identify an individual fish. Finally, an external radio transmitter is attached to a dorsal scute, permitting tribal biologists to track the location of each fish on the reservation and identify seasonal habitat preferences.

In previous years, radio transmitters were surgically implanted in the abdominal cavity. However, this invasive procedure could adversely impact the ability of a fish to later spawn, a requisite for re-establishing a self-sustaining population here. The use of external radio transmitters in 2000 also offered several other advantages over internal transmitter implants, including: attachment in a fraction of the time; no requirements for surgical skills, equipment, or anesthesia; and a reduced risk of secondary infections.

Scott Yess, LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office

Muscatatuck NWR Joins With The Nature Conservancy to Protect Groundwater in Indiana Caves

Staff at Muscatatuck NWR working on the Ohio River Valley Ecosystem cave/karst subgroup joined with The Nature Conservancy to publish an informative brochure that will help protect groundwater in Indiana. Thousands of the brochures, "Sinkholes, Groundwater and Other Mysteries Below Your Feet in Southern Indiana," are now available to the public in southern Indiana.

The Nature Conservancy's Blue River Project and Muscatatuck NWR led the project, which highlights the importance of protecting groundwater in the large cave/karst area of Indiana.

The brochures were produced in partnership with seven local soil and water conservation districts, Bluespring Caverns, Indiana Karst Conservancy, American Cave Conservation Association, Marengo Cave and the Indiana Geological Survey.

Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR

EPA to Host February Conference on Ephemeral Wetlands of the Midwest

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in partnership with the Service's Chicago Field Office, will host a two-day conference on Midwest Ephemeral wetlands Feb. 20-21, 2002, in Chicago, Ill. There is no fee for registration. The conference is part of a broad new public outreach initiative and is open to resource managers, educators, landowners and anyone interested in ephemeral wetlands. The outreach effort has already resulted in the creation of a color brochure (*See p.6, Inside Region 3, Oct. 1, 2001*) and other multimedia materials.

Ephemeral wetlands are depressional wetlands that temporarily hold water in the spring and early summer, or after heavy rains. They periodically dry, usually in late summer. Most are isolated and free of fish, which allows the successful breeding of certain amphibians and invertebrates.

The conference will reinforce the oureach initiative by introducing both resource professionals and the public to terms and concepts related to ephemeral wetlands, their ecology, and function; and create more awareness of conservation issues unique to these aquatic communities.

A number of partners within the Midwest have participated in this initiative. These include EPA, The Service, Partners for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, several state or local land management agencies, and non-government organizations. For more details, or to register to attend the conference, please visit the USEPA Region 5 web site: http://www.epa.gov/r5water/ephemeralwetlands/2002conf.htm *Michael Redmer, Chicago Field Office.*

Future Farmers of America Students Learn About Service Programs, Careers

About 50,000 students attending the National Future Farmers of America (FFA) convention in Louisville, Ky., had the opportunity to learn about Service programs and conservation careers courtesy of staff members from Muscatatuck and Big Oaks refuges. Staff members from both southern Indiana refuges staffed a Service exhibit at the convention, held Oct. 24-26.

The convention represents the largest single gathering of students in the country and focused on careers. The diverse group, made up of 34 percent women, 77 percent white, and 73 percent urban, non-rural members, are very interested in the work of the Service and kept the staff busy with career questions. The refuge system centennial was highlighted with Region 3's blue goose mascot "Puddles" making lively appearances students enjoyed and took many photos with. Several of the student groups made Muscatatuck NWR a tour stop on their FFA trip. S*usan Knowles, -Muscatatuck NWR*

--Photo by Scott Yess

Steve Klankowski a student volunteer who worked with the Service during surveys at Ft. McCoy, Wis.

In October, staff from the LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office and volunteer Steve Klankowski assisted biologists from Fort McCoy, Wis., to capture and relocate brown trout on the Army installation. The relocation effort will improve brook trout populations in Silver Creek, Monroe County, Wis.

Several miles of stream were electrofished and brown trout were collected, measured and restocked in the LaCrosse River. This effort will help sustain the valued brook trout fishery. *Scott Yess, LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office*

Lake Superior Binational Program Celebrates 10 Years of Conservation Success During Ashland Conference

Personnel from the Ashland Fisheries Resources Office participated in the four- day Lake Superior Binational Program Conference Oct. 31 to Nov. 3 in Ashland, Wis. The conference celebrated 10 years of success and planning for the future.

The binational program plays a key role in the integration of land use planning efforts across jurisdictions such as the Lake Nipigon Basin Signature Site in Ontario, and the Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge in northern Wisconsin.

A few successes of the last 10 years include meeting the Year 2000 60 percent mercury reduction target, the mercury collection and recycling project on the Canadian North Shore, and protection of 29,000 acres of land along the St. Louis River and its tributaries in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Initiated in 1991, the binational program to restore and protect Lake Superior represents a partnership of federal, state, provincial, and tribal governments working together with citizens to ensure the protection of the Lake Superior basin. From an original focus on chemical contamination of the lake, the program has now moved to an ecosystem approach, recognizing the interaction of land, air and water with all living things.

Although there are many success stories continued vigilance, hard work and agency participation will be necessary to combat the issues still facing the Lake Superior basin, and move forward with projects which promote a healthy Lake Superior ecosystem. Because the Service is an integral part of many of these projects, Mark Dryer and Ted Koehler from the Ashland Fishery Resources Office are members of the Binational Program. They participated in the conference to work on the ongoing challenges and chart a course for the future.

Participants from the United States and Canada developed strategy on issues such as continued mercury emissions, contaminated sediments and impacts of exotic species, as well as encroaching development and poor land use management which threatens aquatic and terrestrial habitats. The additional partnerships formed, strategy devised, and work conducted at the conference has constructed the foundation for 10 more years of success for the Binational Program. *Ted Koehler, Ashland Fishery Resources Office*

Accomplishment Reports Received

The following accomplishment reports were processed by the Accomplishment Reporting System (ARS) between Oct. 23 and Nov. 15, 2001. Reports are selected for *Inside Region 3* based on the accomplishment date, and not the date submitted. Employees with a userid and password can can search the entire ARS database via the web by going to http://ars.fws.gov and using the Report Manager utility of the ARS.

1. Muscatatuck NWR and TNC Helping to Protect Groundwater in Indiana Caves
Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR

2. Muscatatuck NWR restores PFF&W Jones 2 acre wetland
Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR

3. Muscatatuck NWR Featured on PBS Program Airing in Indiana, Kentucky
Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR

4. Future Farmers of America Students Learn About Service Programs, Careers
Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR

5. Muscatatuck NWR Highlights Refuge Centennial at Scott County DU Banquet
Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR

6. Muscatatuck NWR Hosts Whooping Cranes Enroute to Florida
Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR

7. New Book Features Dragonfly Species of Muscatatuck NWR
Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR

8. Ohio Game Propagator Sentenced in Federal court
Daniel LeClair, Sandusky Law Enforcement

9. Service Presents Karner Blue Butterfly Paper at the Prairie Invertebrate Conference
Michael Engel, Wisconsin Private Lands Office

10. Lake Superior Binational Program Conference Held In Ashland Wisconsin
Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO

11. Bison Roundup Helps Neal Smith NWR Manage Tallgrass Prairie Herd
Christy Smith, Neal Smith NWR

12. Minnesota Valley NWR Recruits Refuge Operations Specialist
Rick Schultz, Minnesota Valley NWR

13. Iowa Private Lands Completes Projects for Endangered Topeka Shiner
James Munson, Iowa Private Lands Office

14. Investigation of Oily Wastewater Treatment Ponds
Lisa Williams, East Lansing Field Office

15. Volunteer Sturgeon Monitoring Program by Commercial Fishermen Started in Western Basin of Lake Superior
Glenn Miller, Ashland FRO

Continued next page

17. Green Bay FRO Conducts Lake Trout Spawner Surveys on Lake Michigan
Charles Bronte, Green Bay FRO

18. Wisconsin DNR Receives $795,000 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant
Dave Pederson, Federal Aid

19. Midwest Natural Resource Managers assist Michigan Dune Alliance
Bob Kavetsky, East Lansing FO

20. Northwest Friends Group Network Meeting at PWLC
Kenneth Garrahan, Fergus Falls WMD/ PWLC

21. Refuge Fee Demonstration Program Pays Tribute to NWRS Centennial
Judy Pharris, Crab Orchard NWR

22. Ecologists find federally endangered plant in southern Indiana
Lori Pruitt, Bloomington FO

23. Refuge Ranger Participates In Curriculum Enrichment Program
Michael Dixon, Mark Twain NWR-Riverlands

24. Service Meets With Corps of Engineers Colonel and Regulatory Staff
Barbara Hosler, East Lansing FO

25. Lake Sturgeon Restocked Into Menomonee Waters
Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO

26. Coaster Brook Trout Brood Stock Development Continues
Henry Quinlan, Ashland FRO

27. Thirteenth Annual Waterfowl Hunt for Disabled Hunters Held at Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge
Lisa McCurdy, Trempealeau NWR

28. Rydell Refuge's Fifth Annual Deer Hunt for Persons With Disabilities Successful
Rick Julian, Rydell NWR

29. Pictured Rocks Fish Management, 2001
Lee Newman, Ashland FRO

30. The Journey South Continues at Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge
Lisa McCurdy, Trempealeau NWR

31. Centennial Promoted at Midwest Environmental Education Conference
Molly Stoddard, Horicon NWR

32. Alpena Fishery Resources Office Provides Job Shadowing Experience
Anjanette Hintz, Alpena FRO

33. Bats of the Americas Help Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week
Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR

34. Principal Assistant Secretary of Army Visits Upper Mississippi River
Gary Wege, Twin Cities FO

35. A Refuge Community Celebrates
Judith Miller, Minnesota Valley NWR

36. Case of the Missing Trunk a Blueprint for Kindness
Judith Miller, Minnesota Valley NWR

37. East Lansing Field Office Hosts Retirement Planning Seminar
Janet Brewer, East Lansing FO

38. Ruffe Control Committee Examines its Strengths, Weaknesses, and Opportunities
Gary Czypinski, Ashland FRO

39. Exploratory Survey for Coaster Brook Trout Conducted on North Shore of Isle Royale National Park
Glenn Miller, Ashland FRO

40. UW Environmental Ecology Graduate Students Visit Leopold WMD
Sheldon Myerchin, Leopold WMD

41. Ashland FRO Assist Iron River NFH
Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

42. LaCrosse FRO Assists With Brook Trout Management at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin
Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO

43. 178 Important Shorebird Stopover Sites Identified
Bob Russell, Migratory Birds & State Programs

44. Invasion of Eighth Graders at Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge
Lisa McCurdy, Trempealeau NWR

Inside Region 3

Inside Region 3 is produced by the External Affairs Office, Region 3, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ft. Snelling, Minnesota. Items herein are selected from reports submitted from the field via the Accomplishment Reporting System. Photos in support of submssions are used by permission. Questions concerning *Inside Region 3*, or the Accomplishment Reporting System should be addressed to Scott Flaherty, 612-713-5309 or via email at: scott_flaherty@fws.gov

Inside Region 3

Vol. 4, No. 3 December 2001

Prescribed Fire

Unseasonably Mild Weather Extends Fall Burning Season

This "Terra-Torch" is used to cross water barriers such as ditches. It also enables fire crews to work without having to wade in marsh muck.

Agassiz NWR Burns Nearly 5,000 Acres

Despite receiving eight inches of snow in the area October 24, the staff at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge in northwest Minnesota were able to treat six units of refuge with prescribed fire between Oct.1 and Nov.19, 2001. More than 4,860 acres on the Goose Pen (520 acres), Pool 8 (200 acres), Parker Pool (2,240), Headquarters Pool (1,560 acres) and Golden Valley (160 acres) units were burned.

Prescribed fires are used by resource managers to control the spread of exotic plant species and improve wildlife habitat. Prescribed fires are more difficult to conduct in the fall due to reduced daylight hours available for burnings. The start of the state's deer hunting season also interrupted burns on the refuge for nine days. Despite the set backs, the ability to conduct burning in mid-November in this area is a rare gift from Mother Nature.

All burning operations at Agassiz NWR require a minimum of seven qualified people. In addition to refuge staff, personnel from other Service offices and partners helped conduct the burns. Participants included Steve Schumacker, Dave Davis and Ryan and Pat Wagner from Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District; John Braastad, Thief River Falls Private Lands; Tom Franklin, Tamarac NWR; Dan Angelo, Union Slough NWR and two members of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa. *Margaret Anderson, Agassiz NWR*

Photos by Maggie Anderson

This aerial view of Parker Unit at Agassiz NWR was taken four days after the start of prescribed burning. Of the unit's 3,200 acres, 2,400 are burned; 800 are water or wet marsh.

Refuge Operations Specialist Dave Bennett (right) uses a drip torch to burn an area around phone box to protect it from larger fires. Both men were safe on County Road 7.

--USFWS Photo

Nearly invisible against a backdrop of flames, a District fire crew member extinguishes a smoldering fire on a adjacent field.

Snow Ends Fall Prescribed Fire Season at Fergus Falls WMD

The successful fall prescribed fire season at Fergus Falls Wetland Management District (WMD) came to a halt in late Novermber due to a blizzard that blanketed much of western and northwestern Minnesota.

Unseasonably warm weather throughout November allowed fire crews to conduct burns through Nov. 20. This fall, District fire crews completed 15 burns totaling 1,120 acres, had two wildfires totaling 1 acre, and assisted the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources with one fire totaling 320 acres. During Calendar Year 2001, 47 prescribed fires were conducted on a total of 4,358 acres. (40 burns of 3,790 acres during Fiscal Year 2001. Between Oct. 1 and Nov. 27, 12 controlled burns have been conducted on 1,011 acres.)

The warm, dry weather resulted in many hot fires well into November. District staff were able to kill large numbers of trees on units where trees were invading the prairie. District fire crews also completed some much needed burns at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center (PWLC), especially around the buildings. Three sites were burned to stimulate flea beetles released to control leafy spurge. Three sites were burned as part of the site preparation for native grass seeding. Crews burned inside three predator fences to stimulate nesting cover, and the rest of the burns were executed to reduce the duff layer and stimulate nesting cover. *Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls Wetland Management District*

874 Acres Burned at Minnesota Valley NWR

In September, staff at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge burned 874 acres in 19 controlled burns. This year's priority was oak savannah and native prairie restoration. Several small goat prairies on the bluffs of the Minnesota River were burned to rejuvinate these rare native habitats. The Louisville oak savannah restoration area was also burned this spring. Over the past seven years, the Refuge has hydro-axed over 60 acres of this 200 acre oak savannah to remove unwanted trees that grew following the suppression of fire for farmland and pasture. The Refuge also maintains fire monitoring plots there. The Minnesota Conservation Corps assisted Refuge staff with prescribed fires and firebreak maintenance. *Tom Kerr, Minnesota Valley NWR*

Windom WMD Conducts Its First Prescribed Fire

The Windom Wetland Management District (WMD) conducted its first fall burns since being established in 1990. Four burns totaling 169.6 acres were completed in late September on waterfowl production areas (WPA) in Jackson County.

Prescribed fires on Boot Lake and Skunk Lake WPAs will stress the cool season brome grass and provide a clean field effective herbicide treatment of the brome prior to seeding. The sites will be converted from introduced cool season grasses to warm season grasses of local origin. Portions of the unit were dominated by brome grass, a sod forming grass which crowds out other plant species leading to a mono-typical stand of brome. This species provides little benefit to wildlife species.

The Timber Lake burn reduced the invasion of woody vegetation into the seeded native prairie and wetland basin. *Todd Hauge, Windom WMD*

Three Michigan Men Indicted For Illegal Trade in Protected Cats

10-Count Indictment is Third Phase of Charges Issued After Lengthy Undercover Investigation

A federal court in Detroit, Mich., unsealed a 10-count indictment Nov. 27, 2001, charging three Michigan men with illegally purchasing hides of federally-endangered tigers and leopards. The indictment was returned May 15, 2001, in the Eastern District of Michigan in Detroit following a lengthy undercover investigation by agents of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The indictments charge George F. Riley, 69, of Farmington Hills, Mich., with three felony violations of the Lacey Act, and two misdemeanor violations of the Endangered Species Act in connection with his purchase of two tiger hides and one black leopard hide. Leonard A. Kruszewski, 40, of Milford, Mich., was charged with two felony violations of the Lacey Act and one misdemeanor violation of the Endangered Species Act in connection with his purchase of a tiger hide. William Donald Foshee, 43, of Jackson, Mich., was charged with one felony violation of the Lacey Act and one misdemeanor violation of the Endangered Species Act for his purchase of a leopard hide.

Service investigators, working closely with the U.S. Attorney's Offices in Missouri, Illinois and Michigan, uncovered a group of residents and small business owners in the Midwest that allegedly bought and killed exotic tigers, leopards, snow leopards, lions, mountain lions, cougars, mixed breed cats and black bears with the intention of introducing meat and skins into the lucrative animal parts trade. The three Michigan men were not charged with killing any of the animals.

The three men charged in Michigan are the third phase of federal indictments to be brought in the ongoing investigation. On Nov. 8, 2001, federal conspiracy and Lacey Act charges were filed against Todd and Vicki Lantz, of Cape Girardeau, Mo., Freddy Wilmoth of Gentry, Ark., Stoney Elam of Fort Gibson, Okla., and Tim Rivers of Citra, Fla.. The five are alleged to have illegally purchased, transported and sold federally-endangered tigers and leopards between January and August 1998.

In January, Woody Thompson, Jr. of Three Rivers, Mich., pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Grand Rapids, Mich., to brokering the interstate sale of three tiger skins. Thompson, owner of the Willow Lake Sportsman's Club in Three Rivers, was sentenced to serve six months home detention and two years probation; fined $2,000 and ordered to pay $28,000 to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's "Save the Tigers Fund." *Scott Flaherty, External Affairs*

Service Halts Work on Proposed South Fox Island Land Exchange

The Service announced Dec. 4, it will discontinue work to develop an Environmental Impact Statement that was to examine the impacts of a proposed land exchange between the State of Michigan and a private landowner on South Fox Island in Leelanau County, Michigan. The action came after the Service and the National Park Service received a request from the State of Michigan asking to halt development of the EIS. The three agencies had been cooperating in the effort.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources made its request after the private landowner involved in the proposed exchange decided to reduce the scope of the land exchange on South Fox Island. Because the landowner's revised proposal includes 218 acres of lands with no federal interests, the federal process under which an EIS is developed is no longer applicable.

The EIS was to evaluate a proposed exchange of state land, acquired with Federal Aid wildlife restoration program funds, for privately owned land of equal value; exchange of state lands with National Park Service interest for privately owned lands; and exchange of state lands for lands currently under private ownership on South Fox Island.

--Photo courtesy Michigan DNR

South Fox Island.

Because the actions being considered by the EIS were initiated at the request of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the two federal agencies will honor the request to discontinue efforts to develop the EIS. Any proposed exchange of land with the Service or the National Park Service is discontinued. Any future consideration of a similar land exchange involving lands with federal interests will be considered a new action requiring a separate review under the National Environmental Policy Act. This federal law requires analysis of environmental impacts and can result in the development of an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement depending on the nature of the action. *Georgia Parham, External Affairs*

Service Works to Protect Wetlands at Train Derailment Site in Michigan

Lisa Williams of the East Lansing Field Office's Contaminants Branch is assisting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency oversee the remediation at the site of a freight train derailment near Andersonville, Mich. Nov. 15. The derailed locomotives spilled 3,000 - 4,000 gallons of diesel fuel and petroleum lubricants into the railroad right-of-way and adjacent wetlands.

The impacted wetlands are a one-to-two acre mix of open-water, sedge-dominated, and wooded wetlands that are part of Huron Swamp, the headwaters of the Huron River. The wetlands are owned by the Michigan Nature Association (MNA). Williams has been working with MNA, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the railroad to optimize the remedial activities for contaminant removal in the impacted area while protecting immediately adjacent vegetation, soil and water and planning for recovery of the habitat.

Based on MNA's concerns over preserving local strains of native vegetation, the area will not be re-planted and all temporary soil stabilization has been done with silt fences, geotextile fabric, and stone rather than mulching and seeding. In addition, the railroad is drafting a monitoring plan for the impacted area to insure that non-native or invasive species do not become established in the area while it re-vegetates. While assisting EPA, Williams will review and approve the monitoring plan and oversee its implementation over the next five years.

The area of wetland directly impacted is between one and two acres because of containment and recovery efforts that included absorbent booms, a temporary clay berm, silt curtains, vacuuming and excavation. Without prompt remediation, the area potentially impacted included hundreds of acres of the Huron Swamp, headwaters of the Huron River in Oakland County, Mich.. *Lisa Williams, East Lansing Field Office*

Agassiz Refuge's Slumping Parker Dike Gets Needed Facelift

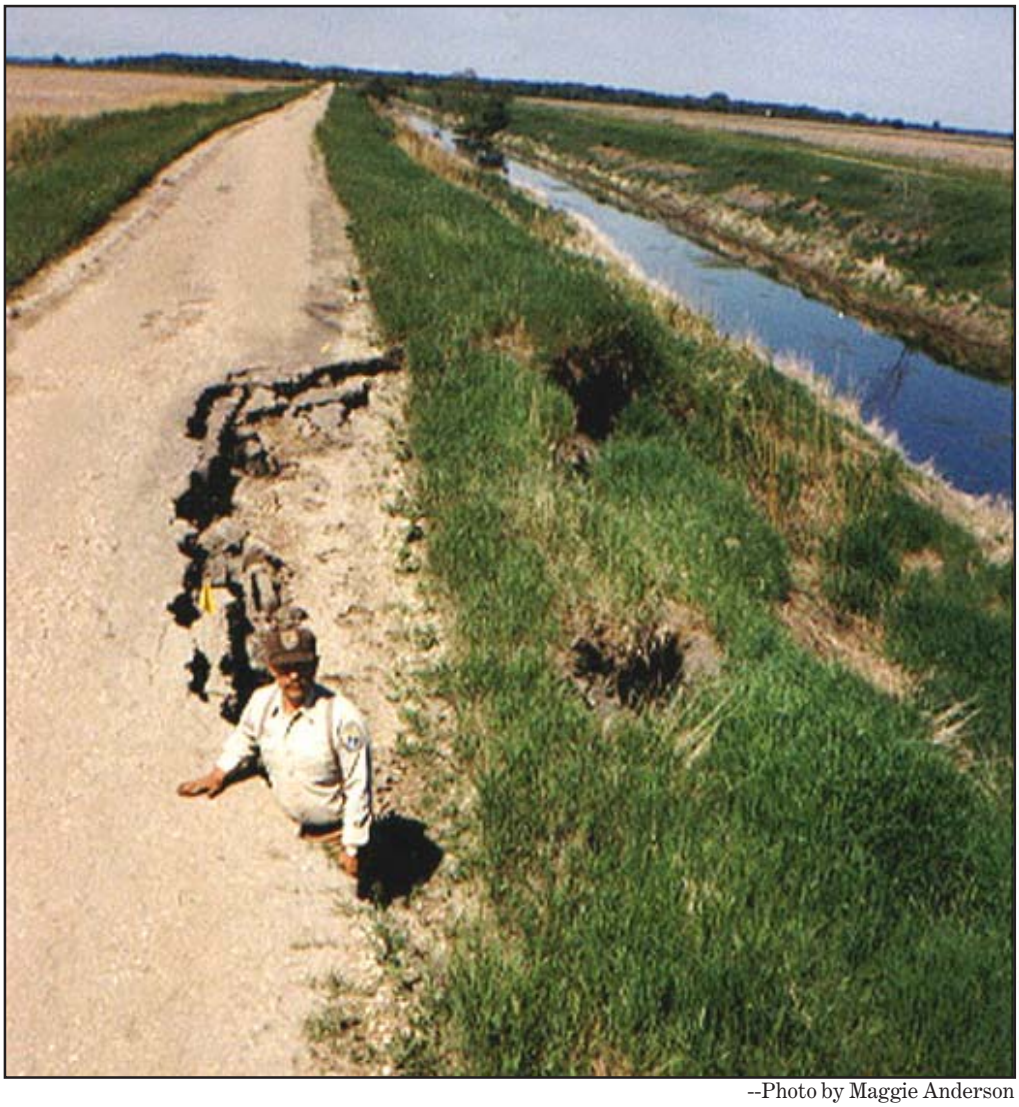
A two mile stretch of the north boundary of Parker Dike on Ditch 11 at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge has suffered severe slumping (14 locations) over the past 10 years, threatening the integrity of the dike in Parker Pool. The dike was in such bad shape that it was closed to vehicle traffic.

This summer, a contract was awarded to Spruce Valley Corporation, Middle River, Minn., to make desperately needed repairs to seven of the slumps. Work began on Sept. 12, 2001, and was completed Nov. 16.

Although half of the slumps have been repair, seven more existing slumps remain in the 11,800 foot dike. The dike has held up considerably well considering it first built in the early 1900s, last worked on during the days of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and has suffered years' worth of severe flooding.

Engineer Craig Swedenborg from the Regional Office at Fort Snelling oversaw survey and contract design. Contracting Specialist Scott Halstead, administered the contract on this MMS project. Dave Bennett, refuge operations specialist at Agassiz, was the daily field inspector.

Margaret Anderson, Agassiz NWR



--Photo by Maggie Anderson

Refuge staffer Dave Bennett stands inside one of the eroding slumps along Parker dike.

Ashland FRO Assists With Native American Conservation and Restoration Projects

The Service's Ashland Fishery Resources Office (FRO) provides technical assistance on fish and wildlife matters to 14 Native American tribes and associated conservation programs in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Yearly contact is made with natural resource directors in order to assess wildlife technical and financial assistance needs. Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program information was specifically provided this year. We also provide project assistance to additional tribes throughout the upper Midwest where needed.

Presently, Ashland FRO is providing financial and technical wildlife habitat assistance to four tribal wetland projects; Lac du Flambeau (195 acres), Grand Portage (45 acres), Menominee (15 acres) and Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, or GLIFWC, (15 acres).

One tribal wetland/riparian project was completed this year, GLIFWC's 75-acre-1 mile riparian Spring Creek project. Wetland restoration technical assistance is also being provided to the Red Cliff tribe in regards to beaver pond and ephemeral wetland restoration. Prairie restoration technical assistance was provided to the Prairie Island Indian Community. Planning is presently underway for a 100-acre prairie restoration cooperative project involving the Service, Prairie Island Indian Community and Circle of Flight.

In the past few years, Ashland FRO has completed upland and wetland restoration projects with the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin, Leach Lake Reservation, Fond du Lac, White Earth, Red Cliff, Grand Portage, and Lac du Flambeau. *Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO*

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant Will Benefit Lake Sturgeon

Personnel from the Superior National Forest contacted the Ashland Fishery Resources Office in 1997 to request assistance in determining if adult lake sturgeon are still present in the Sturgeon River. Over the next two years, the Ashland FRO conducted spring gill netting surveys. Although small numbers of sturgeon were captured in the lower segments of the river, no sturgeon were seen within the upper portions despite the observations that suitable spawning habitat appears to be adequate. One of the assumptions made was that due to extensive logjams, the fish were just not able to migrate into the upper sections of the river.

Working with the Minnesota DNR, the Ashland FRO submitted a grant application through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation requesting financial assistance to remove these log jams. Removal of these barriers could provide an additional 34.5 miles of potential spawning/nursery habitat. The grant has been approved ($21,000) and now the log jam removal project can begin next year. Working with partners for the benefit of the resource can come together in many forms. Although the Ashland FRO will not be directly assisting with this project, the end result will be an improved fishery that will hopefully benefit future spawning populations of lake sturgeon. *Frank Stone, Ashland Fishery Resources Office*

--USFWS Photo

Lake Sturgeon will benefit from a recent grant that funds removal of log jams from sturgeon habitat on the Sturgeon River.

Big Muddy Fish Roundup Saves Nearly 1,000 Sportfish

Service biologists from LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO) and Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH)in Wisconsin teamed up in early December to rescue and relocate nearly 1,000 fish that had been trapped in a hatchery pond since the spring.

Dave Wedan, Mark Steingraeber and Scott Yess from LaCrosse FRO joined Jeff Lockington from Genoa NFH for the operation. Several hundred northern pike (650) and approximately 300 fish of a variety of species including smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie and walleye were netted. The fish had entered a hatchery pond during heavy spring flooding. The pond was drained and the fish netted.

The northern pike will be stocked at Horicon NWR in southeast Wisconsin in support of the refuge's rough fish control effort. *Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO*

Results of Sturgeon Study Presented at Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

Biologist Tracy Hill gave a presentation titled 'Age and Growth Characteristics of Lake Sturgeon Populations from Lake Huron and the St. Clair Waterway' during the Sturgeon, Paddlefish, Lake Trout and Cisco general session at the 63 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference Dec. 12 in Des Moines, Iowa. The symposium was an excellent opportunity for Hill to explain how the Alpena Fishery Resources Office (FRO) is working in cooperation with state, tribal and non-governmental partners to restore lake sturgeon populations to the Great Lakes.

Hill was also co-author on two other presentations given during the general session. The presentations were titled 'Ecology of Lake Sturgeon (Acipenser fulvescens) in the Detroit River' and 'Juvenile Lake Sturgeon Assessment in Western Lake Erie'. Central Michigan University Graduate student Nathan Caswell and Alpena FRO fishery biologist Emily Zollweg presented the talks. *Tracy Hill, Alpena FRO*

LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office Gets Grant for Fish Passage Project

The LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office (FRO) was recently awarded a $65,000 grant which will be matched with funds and in kind services from partners to build a fish passage structure on the Wild Rice River near Twin Valley, Minnesota. Participates on this project include the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, White Earth Biology Department and the Wild Rice Watershed District.

The Wild Rice River is a major tributary to the Red River of the North which has numerous dams and barriers to fish migration. Such barriers limit fish movement to critical habitats and therefore reduce populations and diversity. One prime example is the lake sturgeon which once were abundant in the Red River Watershed now have to be reintroduced. Surveys completed by both the Minnesota DNR and the White Earth Biology Department indicate the species diversity is greater below the Heiberg Dam with essentially no sport fish species collected above the dam. So providing fish passage will increase fish diversity and also increase the chance of success with the lake sturgeon reintroduction projects conducted by the Minnesota DNR, White Earth Biology Dept. and the Service.

When completes, the structure will allow fish to migrate past the Heiberg Dam and access more than 120 miles of the watershed. A boulder, stair-stepped rapids will create a water flow that fish will be able to negotiate. A similar structure was installed at a dam in Fargo, North Dakota with success. The structure created a rapid type river flow that also provided a unique kayaking opportunity.

The Red River Watershed has numerous dams and fish barriers along its stretch which hinder fish migration resulting in reduced diversity and populations. It is the goal of several resource agencies to remove or alter as many of these barriers as possible.

This project will allow fish migration to over 120 miles of riverine habitats along the Wild Rice River watershed which is a major tributary to the Red River. It will not only increase species diversity but will have major benefits to lake sturgeon and sport fish populations. *Scott Yess, LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office*

Service Helping Red Lake Tribe's Walleye Restoration Effort

The Ashland Fishery Resources Office (FRO) is continuing to work with the Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and staff from the University of Minnesota to restore a naturally spawning population of walleye in Red Lake.

Frank Stone from the Ashland FRO met with the Red Lake Task Force Dec. 5 to discuss the 2002 walleye stocking program, performance indicators and law enforcement components of this long-term restoration effort. The Committee reconfirmed its desire to rehabilitate the walleye population in the Red Lake and to ensure that fish stocks are conserved for the cultural, recreational, social, and economic benefit of all.

The two previous walleye fry stockings have successfully recruited into this fishery. Fry stocking will not be conducted in 2002, due to a possible suppression effect on the previous year classes. Fry stocking will most likely occur in 2003, and the Red Lake DNR may want to continue spring trawling efforts to assess forage fish abundance. The draft walleye recovery progress report will be mailed by January 31; the next meeting will be held on March 14.

The Minnesota DNR has changed its regulations for next spring that will make it illegal to "fish for walleye" within the Red Lakes

Historically, the Red Lakes have provided food, recreation, cultural pursuits, and income to many people. If this restoration effort succeeds, it may well be the single most successful natural resource event ever accomplished within the State of Minnesota. Government leadership, cooperation, and coordination have been paramount throughout this process. All parties have demonstrated a willingness to lead by example to achieve the community support and involvement required to attain the goals of the Red Lake recovery effort.

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All parties have demonstrated a willingness to provide leadership by example to achieve the community support and involvement required to reach the goals of the Red Lake recovery effort. *Frank Stone, Ashland Fishery Resources Offfice*

Accomplishment Reports Received

The following accomplihshment reports were processed by the Accomplishment Reporting System on Dec. 20, 2001 The reports listed have accomplishment dates between Nov. 15 and Dec.19, 2001. All reports submitted to the ARS can be viewed by employees using the Report Manager utility on the ARS.

1. **Grant From National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Benefits Lake Sturgeon.**
Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

2. **Ashland FRO Assists With Native American Conservation and Restoration Projects**
Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO

3. **Service Seeks to Protect Wetlands at Site of Train Derailment in Michigan**
Lisa Williams, East Lansing FO

4. **Study Results Presented at 63rd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference**
Tracy Hill, Alpena FRO

5. **Upper Great Lakes Fishery Office Participate in Lake Whitefish and Lake Trout Scale Aging Workshop**
Glenn Miller, Ashland FRO

6. **Partnership Begins Planning on St. Croix River Mussel Propagation Facility**
Richard Rowse, Twin Cities FO

7. **Follow Up Work for Coaster Brood Stock Development**
Henry Quinlan, Ashland FRO

8. **Another Edition of the MTAN Goes to Print**
Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

9. **Muscatatuck NWR Hosts Conservation Field Days**
Donna Stanley, Muscatatuck NWR

10. **Service Helping Red Lake Tribe's Walleye Restoration Effort**
Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

11. **Muscatatuck NWR Friends Groups Hosts Refuge Week Festival**
Donna Stanley, Muscatatuck NWR

12. **Big Muddy Fish Roundup**
Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO

13. **Students Scrutinize PCB Cleanup Plan for Lower Fox River-Green Bay**
Colette Charbonneau, Ecological Services

14. **Alpena FRO Hosts Volunteer Appreciation Dinner**
Emily Zollweg, Alpena FRO

15. **Junior Duck in the News**
Judith Miller, Minnesota Valley NWR

16. **Land Preaquisitoin Contaminants Surveys - FWS Level I Procedures**
Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO

17. **Ohio Man Ordered to Pay More Than $11,000.00 For Poisoning Federally Protected Migratory Birds**
Paul Beiriger, Chicago LE

18. **Muscatatuck NWR stronghold for Otters in Indiana reintroduction program**
Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR

19. **A Snowy End to the Fall Prescribed Fire Season at Fergus Falls WMD**
Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

20. **LaCrosse FRO Receives Grant for Fish Passage Project**
Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO

21. **Ashland FRO Contributes to Implementation of 2000 Consent Decree**
Henry Quinlan, Ashland FRO

22. **Careers Class at Fergus Falls High School**
Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

23. **Fergus Falls Kiwanis Club Learns about Refuge Law Enforcement**
Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

24. **Wetland Restorations on Ridgeway WPA and Jorgenson WPA**
Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

25. **Wetlands and Waterfowl Program**
Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

26. **Agassiz NWR Fall Burns Nearly 5,000 Acres**
Margaret Anderson, Agassiz NWR

27. **Parker Dike Rehabilitation - Agassiz NWR**
Margaret Anderson, Agassiz NWR

28. **Student Volunteer Investigating Lake Level Issue**
Lisa Williams, East Lansing FO

29. **Horicon NWR Completing Busy Fall Visitor Season**
Molly Stoddard, Horicon NWR

30. **Service and Corps of Engineers Present Draft Scope of Work**
Dan Stinnett, Twin Cities Field Office

Inside Region 3

Inside Region 3 is produced by the External Affairs Office, Region 3, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ft. Snelling, Minnesota. Items herein are selected from reports submitted from the field via the Accomplishment Reporting System. Photos in support of submssions are used by permission. Questions concerning *Inside Region 3*, or the Accomplishment Reporting System should be addressed to Scott Flaherty, 612-713-5309 or via email at: scott_flaherty@fws.gov